

MISSING PAGE

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MISSING PAGE(S):

Tab 18

DIA & DOS review(s) completed.

17 JUL 1948

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GENERAL

1. US participation in Brussels Pact talks--The Department of State has informed US Ambassador Douglas in London that the US Government is sending representatives of the armed forces "to participate, on a non-membership basis," in the military conversations now being held by the Brussels Pact countries.

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EUROPE

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2. ITALY: Secchia to succeed Togliatti if he dies--

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Secchia, for some time reported to be an advocate of revolutionary action, took over political direction of the Communist Party when Togliatti was taken to the hospital. US Embassy Rome expects Secchia to assume permanent direction of the Party, if Togliatti should die. Although the Embassy believes that such a development might lead to another flare-up of violence, it considers Italy's forces of law and order capable of quelling any Communist revolt.

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3. USSR: Reasons for Soviet replies on Berlin--US Military Attaché Moscow advances the following probable reasons for the strong Soviet reply to the Western Powers notes concerning Berlin: (a) the Politburo reasons that the Western Powers are not prepared to fight over Berlin and no other course will be effective in maintaining the western position; (b) the Kremlin is determined to extend its control in Germany as far as practicable by all means short of war; and (c) the Soviet Union feels the need of making a show of Soviet strength for propaganda purposes following its recent political reverses.

(CIA Comment: CIA concurs with the analysis presented by the US Military Attaché.)

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State Dept. review completed

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NEAR EAST-AFRICA

4. PALESTINE: Arabs facing dilemma --Glubb Pasha (British Commander of the Arab Legion) has informed US Representative Stabler in Amman of his belief that the Arab states will obey the Security Council's order as a face-saving way of ending the war in Palestine. Glubb added, however, that although Abdullah and the Transjordan Government strongly desire to end hostilities, they are afraid of the other Arab states and of public feeling in the Arab world. He said that all the Arab governments, in attempting to make decisions with respect to Palestine, are more concerned with popular reaction and internal security than with the military situation and the warnings of the Arab chiefs-of-staff that the war cannot be carried on.

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FAR EAST

5. CHINA: Soviet Ambassador urges end of civil war --US Embassy Nanking reports that Soviet Ambassador Roshchin and the Chinese Minister of the Interior recently held a six-hour conversation concerning the civil war, during which the Ambassador urged that the Chinese civil war be brought to an end for the sake of all concerned. The Embassy expresses the opinion that this approach by the Soviet Ambassador suggests: (a) the USSR is concerned that US aid may strengthen the National Government; (b) the Chinese Communists are weaker than they appear to be; and (c) Soviet officials may have relatively little respect for the Chinese Communists, and that the USSR will continue to propose Soviet assistance as mediator in the Chinese civil war.

(CIA Comment: While CIA is not in a position entirely to discount Embassy Nanking's explanation of the Soviet Ambassador's approach, CIA considers that the following considerations are pertinent: (a) the USSR may estimate that a continuation of hostilities would insure continued US aid and further extension of US influence over Nationalist China; (b) the USSR may reason

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that once hostilities had ceased, Communist political penetration could be accelerated, especially if a coalition government should take over; and (c) the USSR recognizes that it would reap substantial propaganda benefits from a successful Soviet mediation of the civil war.

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